

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KUEHL AND SOLIS

MARCH 24, 2015

In the Final Report of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (Commission), issued on April 18, 2014, the Commission's first recommendation was for the Board to "Articulate a County-wide Mission to Prioritize and Improve Child Safety." That first recommendation served as the underpinning of others that would follow. The Commission pointed out that in the absence of this common mission, "...too often, the County entities that should collaborate in planning, funding programs, and providing services to effectively serve children generally fail to adequately communicate and coordinate efforts." Further, the County was "...forfeiting its ability to benefit from the sum of its parts."

The Commission recommended that the Board "mandate that child safety is a top priority and articulate a child-centered, family-focused, County-wide Mission that calls for:

- All relevant County entities to work together and with the community;
- Joint strategic planning and blended funding streams;
- Data-driven programs and evaluations;
- A comprehensive service delivery system, including prevention programs that stop child maltreatment before it starts; and

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

- An annual overview of the state of the field of child welfare, presented to the Board by external experts.”

The Commission further indicated that “This mission should pave the way for a new system that values transparency in its practices, finances, and outcomes. It should ensure that the County is keenly attuned to the voices of those whom it is designed to serve. Participation from youth and from culturally diverse communities is essential.”

In developing its recommendations, including this first one, the Commission conducted fifteen public hearings, interviewed over 300 stakeholders, and received broad input from diverse participants.

More recently, the Office of Child Protection, established pursuant to Commission recommendation, convened additional stakeholder meetings to gather further input on a mission statement and received significant advice from members of the Transition Team, as well as departmental representatives.

Based upon the Commission’s Report, stakeholder meetings, and Transition Team input, the Office of Child Protection has drafted a proposed mission statement with various components.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors adopt the Office of Child Protection’s proposed County Mission Statement (attached hereto) related to Child Safety which includes the Preamble to the County Mission Statement on Child Safety; the Proposed County Safety Statement; the Proposed Office of Child Protection Mission Statement; and the Proposed Values for the County Mission on Child Safety.

Los Angeles County Mission Statement on Child Safety

Preamble to the County Mission Statement on Child Safety:

The safety and well-being of all of our children are of highest priority in the County. Consequently, County departments and agencies will work together as a team to provide the highest quality services to children and families. Broad community input and support is also critical to this mission. The County has established the Office of Child Protection to ensure the County achieves its child safety mission.

Proposed County Safety Statement:

***Protect our children, support our families and
champion their success***

Proposed OCP Mission Statement:

***Leading a broad partnership that implements meaningful solutions to
improve the lives of our children and families***

Proposed Values for the County Mission on Child Safety:

Value	Value Statement
Integrity	We do the right thing for our children and families, listening to their voices, and placing their needs at the center of our policies and actions.
Data Driven Planning	We strategically use data to inform planning, activities, and decision making.
Integrated Service Delivery	We facilitate inter-agency collaboration to ensure that County departments both work together and with other diverse stakeholders. Towards this end, joint planning and budgeting is a necessary part of this collaborative process.
Child Centered and Family Focused	We consider the impact of policy implementation through the eyes of our children and families, and are committed to supporting a continuum of care that is both preventative and provides long-term support.
Transparency	We readily share information about our processes, activities, and decision making.
Community Engagement	We actively engage the community as real partners about the best ways to protect children and support their families in the cultural context of each community.
Advocacy	We seek to influence national, State, and local policy decisions, program development, and resource allocation to promote continuous improvement of the child protection system and better child protection outcomes.
Innovation	We constantly challenge ourselves and partners to advance best practices and seek new solutions for improving child protection, establishing Los Angeles County as a national model.